



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Annual Meeting, '93 ...

Telling Our Story and Following Our Dream

Talladega College, Alabama's oldest historically black, private, integrated four-year liberal arts college is the site chosen for the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting '93. Talladega College was established in 1867. The beautiful oak-lined campus boasts several landmark buildings: Swayne Hall, the first building of the College; DeForest Chapel; and the Savery Library. The Savery Library houses the historically significant Amistad murals by Hale Woodruff, depicting the successful quest for freedom by captured Africans aboard the slave ship, the *Amistad*.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Norman W. Jackson, together with our delegates, committees, ministers, commissions and visitors will "tell our stories," take care of Conference business, and worship and fellowship together during the weekend of June 11th through the 13th, 1993. Directions, schedule and other details will be found inside this issue.

Promoting Denominational Identity: UCC Identity Task Force of the SEC

The basic function of the Task Force as spelled out by the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference is to "develop materials and resources, and to promote our denominational identity in the churches and the public of the SEC."

The Task Force, composed of both clergy and lay members, has met twice since its inception in the fall of 1992. At the first meeting held at Central Church in Atlanta, attention was given to the composition of the group. It was found that among the members, a considerable amount of experience, from a wide spectrum of service within the church, was apparent. Much thought was given to what each member believed to be of importance regarding the identity of our denomination. A common thread throughout these discussions emerged: That the UCC is a church seeking to encompass the best of the past with gratitude, while seeking to address the future with great sensitivity to the needs of all people. We are not necessarily better, but we may well be different, and we have a story to tell. With this in mind, it was suggested that our Annual Meeting could be designed so that faith stories

can be told. In this way, people "back home" will be able to say, "Hey, we are a story telling people, too."

At the second meeting held at the United Church in Huntsville, we began to refine our goals. Geneva Morrell suggested five activities which were adopted by the Task Force. They are:

1. That *Southeast News* feature in each issue a church profile, well written and edited, plus a large photo.

2. A "glossy" color brochure be created to tell the UCC story with more pictures than text ... a portrait of our diversity.

3. Begin a "Southern Stories" program by which we gather from throughout the Conference, historic and current stories of the church in this region. Church by church, find the best story tellers, writers and people with photographic or video camera skills to record such stories. A library would then be created which could thus provide a wide variety of identity materials to the churches.

4. Using our "stories," video tapes, audio tapes, and written narratives with photos, share with the other conferences within the UCC.

5. Produce a children's book to be read by our children as part of UCC Christian Education.

The Task Force agreed to work with the Planning Committee for the SEC 1993 Annual Meeting and will meet with them at Talladega in February.

Henry W. Tuttle, Chair

An Introduction from your Editor

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Shirley W. Bowen and I am a life-time member of the United Congregational Christian Church in LaGrange, Georgia. My mother, Margie Smith Wright, and her family were all raised in the Congregational denomination with her grandfather having served several Alabama Congregational churches as pastor (William Riley Smith, b. 22 Sep 1845, d. 5 Nov 1924). He was ordained by the Congregational Council in Alexander City, Alabama in August of 1888.

My professional qualifications include: a Bachelor's degree in English; an Associate degree in Business; four years' editorship of a monthly organization newsletter; three years, church newsletter; three years, family newsletter; an intense love of and desire to serve our God, our church, and our Conference.

It is my hope that, as time goes by, I will get to know many of you as you respond to what you find in your SEC News. As a start in that direction, please put my name and address on your church mailing list so that I may receive your church newsletters and announcements. In cooperation with the Heritage Committee, we would immediately like to begin doing church profiles (complete with a picture). What a nice way for us to get to know each other!

My address is: Shirley W. Bowen, P.O. Box 340, Franklin, GA 30217. Telephone: 706-675-6465.

Report from Villa International Atlanta, Inc.

Villa International Atlanta, Inc. is a specialized ministry of the Christian community which provides housing and hospitality to international public health specialists who come for a short period of time to train and do research at the Centers for Disease Control and Emory University.

In 1992, Villa hosted 920 people from 105 countries. The average room occupancy was 75%. Rent receipts were \$203,980, toward a total budget of \$261,300. The majority of the guests (628) were affiliated with CDC and Emory. Only a minority of people answered the optional question about religious preference. Of those who answered, 198 were Christian, 5 were Muslim, 2 were Buddhist, 6 were Jewish, and 4 were Hindu.

After a year and a half study by the Long Range Planning Committee, the Board of Directors of Villa initiated a ten-year expansion program that will cost \$1,450,000. Thus far, Villa International has \$150,000 cash toward this campaign with \$65,000 in pledges from churches, friends and foundations. Since the building expansion in 1990, the number of guests exceeded Villa's expectation, primarily due to larger course groups that could be accommodated in the 31-bedroom facility. One of the primary aspects of the expansion program is to increase the size of the kitchen, so that guests can prepare their meals and arrive at class on time. Villa has annual groups, including approximately 40 Hubert Humphrey fellows; 25 from Harvard School of Public Health; 25 from INSA; 40 from the International Epidemiology Course; 25 from the AIDS/HIV course; and numerous Epidemiology courses/conferences throughout the year with as many as 40 people participating in each course.

Villa International was cited in the *Sentinel for Health*, a history of the Centers for Disease Control, for its role in providing housing for CDC international scholars. The International Health Program Office of the Centers for Disease Control affirmed Villa's ministry and its relationship to CDC with the presentation of a plaque at their June staff meeting.

Villa has also reached out to the greater Atlanta community through an annual Festival of Nations which is held the last Sunday of April each year. This event drew about 750 people to tour the facilities and enjoy international food and entertainment. Villa mails the monthly guest calendar to more than 100 friends. Former guests and folks interested in Villa's program are invited to join current guests for tours, special events and programs. Occasionally, we utilize guests who have expertise in certain areas to provide slide shows and programs to our guests or churches/civic groups.

The Villa staff is happy to assist your denomination by providing programs on the Villa ministry, international mission, special topics related to health, religion and culture.

Report from Emmaus Homes, Inc.

Emmaus' 99th year was one of great progress. From a January full of cost concerns to a December of celebrations, 1992 was a year of advancement.

During the year, five new supported living units were established. These units, officially known as Individualized Supported Living Units or ILSs, are all off campus and serve from one to three residents. ILSs by definition are apartments or single-family dwellings with no more than three residents. They have either full or part-time staff support. The ILSs are all in eastern Missouri and are served by either the Marthasville or St. Charles staffs. All of the ILS residents have jobs in either competitive or sheltered environments or attend adult day program activities in the community.

Centennial planning moved into "higher gear" as the year 1993 approached. The centennial planning committee that has met for several years began to see their plans come to fruition. Commemorative items were made available and the final reviews of the Emmaus centennial book were completed.

Several special centennial events reached critical stages in their planning during the latter part of 1992. First, the date was approved and the speaker's calendar cleared for the centennial banquet. On September 25, the Reverend Paul Sherry will be with us to help celebrate 100 years of the ministry that is Emmaus. Second, the final drafts were completed of an original historical pageant. This pageant, to be presented on June 5th and 12th, in the Marthasville and St. Charles area, is titled, "The Heartroad to Opportunity." The pageant will feature both staff and residents and has been written by gifted author and playwright Reverend Robert Hedeman, a long time friend of Emmaus.

As we sit back and contemplate the past year, we are humbled and amazed at how God works through each and every person. So much has been accomplished by God's good hand resting upon everyone. There is still much to be done to "secure the future." We have confidence, however, that "thy will be done" and that Emmaus will be able to move confidently into a second century to service to persons with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities.

Meeting Names Keynote Speaker: The Reverend Norman W. Jackson Set to Speak

The Reverend Norman W. Jackson, Ed.D., is of Seneca Indian and English ancestry. Born and reared in Ames, Iowa, he is married to the Rev. Faith Fitch Jackson. The Jacksons live in Honolulu, Hawaii. Their children, Nancy Beth Jackson, Ph.D. and Peter Charles, live and work on the mainland.

The Reverend Norman W. "Jack" Jackson is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, USA. Since October 1989, he has served as Conference Minister of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ. Prior to that he served the Council for American Indiana Ministry, was Executive Associate to the President of the United Church of Christ, Conference Minister of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and was on the faculties of the Eden Theological Seminary

and the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and served parishes in Wisconsin, including a new church started in Madison.

The Reverend Jackson holds degrees from the University of Tulsa and Hartford Seminary and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 1987. He also holds two degrees from Indiana University, including his Doctorate in Education.

The Reverend Jackson has multiple interests including his wife and children, music, jogging, reading, theology, backpacking, looking at and hiking through mountains, enjoying the ocean, people, international travel, and history. He is also committed to the demand of American Indians for justice, a full life, and a reclaiming of their true and honorable history.

Schedule for the 27th Annual Meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

2:00 p.m.	Display setup
2:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
3:00-9:00 p.m.	Registration (Swayne Hall)
5:00 p.m.	Light Buffet Supper
6:45 p.m.	Annual Meeting opening activities (Library)
7:00 p.m.	Call to Order Initial Business Worship & Prayer
7:45 p.m.	Festive Worship Service Preacher: Norman Jackson
9:00 p.m.	Hearings
9:40 p.m.	Reception

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:30-11:00 a.m.	Registration
8:15 a.m.	Worship and Prayer (Library) Community Singing Announcements
8:45 a.m.	Business Developing the Theme
10:00 a.m.	Keynote by Norman Jackson
12:00 noon	Lunch Recognitions
3:15 p.m.	Business
4:00 p.m.	Worship
5:30 p.m.	Dinner Evening: Celebration Festival of Talents

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Speakout Time
8:40 a.m.	Bible Study
9:45 a.m.	Worship – First Church
11:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting

Festival of Talents

On the evening of Saturday, June 12, as a part of our Annual Meeting, we are pooling together talent from each church for a Festival of Talents. Variety of Talents include: storytelling, dancers, choirs, musical instruments, puppets, shows, etc. If you can participate, choose one or more talents and express your church. If you have not sent in your entry form, but would like to participate, you may contact Ms. Renae Koehler, 2404 Heatherbrooke Rd., Birmingham, AL 35242. Telephone: 205/995-9667 or 404/872-9525.

Youth and the Annual Meeting

Youth from our churches will meet both with and alongside the Annual Meeting at Talladega. Activities being planned include: selection of youth for the Southeast Conference's new Youth Council for '93-'94; sharing of local experiences and hopes for the next year; participation in the Annual Meeting experience, "sharing our stories." As one youth said, "I was at the National Youth Event last summer, and Dr. Jackson really spoke to us and stirred us ... I want to see him again on this." Adult youth advisor for the Annual Meeting Youth Event is Ms. Lisa Hahn, youth advisor at Central Church, Atlanta.

Other Youth events are: General Synod possibilities (July 15-21 in St. Louis); an Iowa Youth Leaders' Training Event at Pilgrim Heights Camp, Iowa—perhaps a van load from here—on August 1-7; and a Southeast Conference Youth Weekend at Langdale Church, August 13-15.

A mailing will come to each church in early May with more details on the Annual Meeting gathering.

Where Have We Been and Where are We Going?: Conference Minister

"... like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house ..." is the description, found in II Peter 2 of becoming Christ's Body, the Church. It is one apt description of our life as a conference. In this report I want to celebrate where we've come; give thanks for the commitments of so many; state where we are as a Conference; and attempt to focus the challenges God places before us. This is not just to fill space or be a perfunctory annual report, but to talk seriously with you; a

heart-to-heart talk critical to you and your church. You have heard me quote D. T. Niles that we must go through three conversions: to Christ (our life claimed by God's grace in Christ), to the Church (as the community, continuing Christ's redemptive ministry), and to the world (God so loved the world ...). Here I would focus the invitational imperative, "HOW DO YOU LOVE THE CHURCH."

I. A brief accounting of this past year shows joys and pains. We struggle on how to remain together in conversation at the Table of our Lord, with admitted rupture over diversities of opinion on contemporary issues. Our OCWM was down, mainly as a result of that inability to hang together. The need for clergy to be together in study and sharing, as collegial leaders in Christ's common mission here, is all the more evident

I am daily amazed and grateful for the many persons who are involved in significant ministries in church and society, and who are so supportive of the mission in which we are engaged in the Southeast. THANK YOU, friends!

Some of the emphases in which you all can take pride include our increase in OCWM to the worldwide mission beyond the SEC; the many churches moving ahead in commitment, members and programming; our moving into new offices; the completion of the Visions '91 campaign; the emerging Youth Council; and other activities and events. There are many things of which we can, with St. Paul, "boast in the Lord."

For myself personally, this has been a year of stimulation and strain; and I eagerly look forward to a sabbatical soon. My organizational assignments, as outlined with the Personnel Committee, include primary staff liaison to the Board of Directors; Finance, Personnel, Annual Meeting, Location, Nominating, Identity, Heritage, and Campaign committees; the commissions for Church and Ministry, Women and Christian Education; the Iowa Partnership; Ecumenical Partnership; and the South Alabama and East Alabama associations. Then there are office management and staff oversight, clergy placement, and church preaching and worship, consultations, planning and celebrations. Beyond the SEC, I am on the Georgia Council of Churches, Retreat Planning Committee for the Council of Conference Ministers; the Executive Council and its committees on Personnel and Planning and Correlation. Through it all are tasks and decisions, but also the relationships and community of working with committed persons of faith!

II. Let us "come apart to a quiet place" for a moment and remember why we exist as the church. Lesslie Newbigin was asked after his many years of mission in India, "Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the gospel in India?" To which he replied, "The question really is whether or not I believe in the gospel." We need to remember that God in Christ has come to redeem, that the church exists by mission, that commitment of our means is our spirituality, and that each is called to follow Jesus. Amnesiacs drift in wonderment as they can't remember their identity-forming experience and thus can't imagine a vision-calling. It is a malady of our time, an indication of why the educational ministry is so critical. Someone has characterized the church people as victims of amnesia.

It is imperative that each church, and we as a conference, sees our church as mission, that its purpose is to be in mission where we can be represented. Without mission, we mimic the culture and have no legacy for a next generation in our churches. Pastors trained in the liturgy of the faith, being exposed to the resources of ministry, and enabling and calling churches to their rightful mission, are certainly essential to the survival and strengthening of our congregations. We as a conference are people of amazing history, and we are called to be history-makers in these times. Churches living by mission express that most effectively.

III. A self-portrait of the SEC tells us that we are large in geography and small in resources, that we are comprised of different cultural communities, and that our history and geography give us a peculiar and unique identity. The conference has always wrestled with questions of organization, structure, staffing and finances; living on the edge of survival, committing itself to various emphases, and receiving assistance from the wider church. The SEC had done heroic deeds throughout its history. Given all the diversities and factors of our life, let us look conveniently to who and what we are in order to approach the future with eyes wide open.

The Personnel Committee and Board of Directors had an Office and Staff Management Assessment during this year which will help, I believe, in more effective functioning organizationally, management-wise, staffing and in communications. The Board will report its recommendations to the Annual Meeting. Be open to their report.

The database for 1992 shows 73 UCC churches (including three non-functioning congregations) in which the eight churches over 200 members have 42% of our members. On the other hand, 42% of our churches have 11% of our members. The top twelve OCWM-giving churches contributed 76% of the OCWM, and 21 churches gave nothing to OCWM. A little over forty of our churches are served by seminary-trained pastor, with about two dozen being full-time. The date is not to be intimidating nor does it make decisions for us. In no way is one church more important than another because of size or giving. It is important, however, that each church commit itself to being in mission, in its location and as part of our church's wider mission. As Reuben Sheares would say (especially when someone was overzealous about autonomy), "Every church is fully the church but no church is the whole church." Look carefully at the data report elsewhere in this issue as it pertains to churches and OCWM. Let it inform you about the profile of our corporate life and the decisions we need to make.

IV. Where is God leading us? Because of our size and strength, we immediately know we cannot do everything, but what we do, we ought to do to the best of our ability. Clearly, the following goals are essential:

1. Focus on faithful churches for mission, with trained pastoral leadership. This includes growing new churches.
2. Develop quality leadership by calling forth and empowering both clergy and laity.
3. Emphasize the next generation for leadership in church and society.

4. Witness to God's liberating power by responding to human and societal needs.

All of these we do by keeping the Conference operation lean, by participating in the wider denominational and ecumenical church, and by concentrating our conference life in gatherings for inspiration, fellowship, study and training.

The Identity Task Force is working to help us be clear about our identity, recognizing that when God is at work in our midst, we will express our faith and service in different ways. Thus, as a family we gather at this year's Annual Meeting to celebrate the stories of our missions and life as diverse people in the Southeast Conference who belong together as one family in service to our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting.

Faithfully,
Roger Knight

Conference Life In '92: Moderator

"Keeping our eyes on the prize" is one way for me to express our life together as the Southeast Conference. We have seen an increase in the activity of the Conference in a variety of ways. The Board of Directors began with a Retreat led by Dr. Tom Dipko of the Board for Homeland Ministries, which inspired us to develop a Mission Statement for our life (your ideas are welcome).

Visions '91 is being completed with monies still being received. The last of the Evangelism Institutes was held with good participation and energy at Central Church in Atlanta. Several new pastors have relocated to Southeast churches and we now have several new church starts.

Our Conference Minister has traveled the width and breadth of these six states ... renewing friendships, strengthening old ones and making new acquaintances.

Eighteen young people accompanied Rev. Roger Knight to the Youth Event in Elmhurst with the able adult assistance of Alvin and Charlotte Harnsberry, Joe Hoffman, and Nancy Barnes, where it is reported that they had a wonderful time.

Several Board members have visited churches, networking to be in fellowship with those other than their "home" church. The Center Church in Atlanta has restarted Sunday worship services with Maureen Jenci-Shelton as the pastor, under the guidance of Rev. Flora W. Bridges.

The Amistad Fellowship is meeting regularly with the hope to have a new church start soon in the Marietta area. They are enjoying the hospitality of Pilgrimage Church in Marietta in the meantime.

Chattanooga New Church is "off and running" under the able leadership of James Fouthier.

The Conference Office moved to new headquarters at the New Year with the able assistance of the East Alabama Association and three of its committed members. As a Board of Directors, we are trying to establish measurable

goals/objectives for each year and are still working on that. When finished, we can then review our progress objectively. We are also looking forwards to closer ties with the AMA colleges and historically connected institutions in the Southeast. Colleges visited by our Board members or by our Conference Minister include Talladega, Tougaloo, and Fisk.

We remain concerned about finances, yet hopeful. The Visions '91 campaign helped a great deal, and we are looking forward to the "Make a Difference" campaign (national), which will provide the Conference with additional financial resources. During this period, our Finance Commission and Treasurer informs us that we are "asset rich"—not really, but somewhat more comfortable than we have been in our entire history—and "cash poor." Most of our assets are restricted funds, and all of our churches need to be more intentional in their support through OCWM.

It is urgent that church members, pastors and friends recognize the need for financial support of the Conference. It is our resource for information, guidance and materials. It is our link to the national offices and is the mission unit for this geographical area.

Another matter of real import is a review of our structure. Due to the geographical spread we now work with, it is sometimes difficult for churches to be in fellowship with each other, or for individuals to attend training events or meetings. A new structure is being considered, which you will hear more about in the coming months and will address that long standing concern.

Despite the challenges and disappointments, God has been truly good to us. We have new monies to use with careful discretion; we have new church starts and one renewal, we have one church facility at Macon which evolved into the James Jones Artist Center in its new incarnation (due to Lester Ariail's leadership); we have moved to new and improved headquarters with the hope to develop at least one retreat and conference center and we are more spirit-filled.

I'm honored to serve you in this role as Moderator, and trust that you will continue to share your concerns and commitments with me and the Conference Office. Our being in ministry together is our joy in serving Christ here in the Southeast.

There is still much to do and we give thanks to each of you who have contributed much in time, energy, finances and commitment. May God continue to bless you in the coming year.

Erna Bryant

Building and Rebuilding Churches: Associate Conference Minister

This is a summary review and analysis of what came to pass over the past year in my work as Associate Conference Minister. My specific assignments during the year included staff coordinated support of mission related programs, primarily in two of our four associations (Alabama/Tennessee and Georgia/South Carolina)

with special assistance with church development projects wherever needed; help with stewardship plans and activities; and help with the development and redevelopment of local church clusters. Otherwise, I have worked along with Roger, our Conference Minister, in various ways to serve the wider interests of our Southeast Conference and national Church community.

With the Alabama/Tennessee and with the Georgia/South Carolina associations, I have attended regular meetings where business was being conducted in committees and/or Executive Council sessions. In these relations I am grateful to have shared the success of their very important activities and services. The Church and Ministry committees of both associations, for example, have dealt effectively with the very essential matters of our continuing ministry throughout the Conference region.

Then, there were the celebrations of ministry in our churches:

At Chattanooga, TN and Center Church, Atlanta, inaugural worship services were conducted with festive spirit.

At Talladega, their new pastor was installed to signal to the world their survival and renewal of a traditionally prominent place in a proud college community.

The new church start project at DeKalb County was recently approved at UCBHM, while the spirit was moving among some residents of Cobb County to start a new church at Marietta.

There are just examples of the energy and movement of the Holy Spirit amongst us. We are working very closely with other churches and other projects as part of the Southeast Conference commitment to support development of at least fifteen new churches during the ten-year period of the 1990s. The ones mentioned here are the results of this commitment so far, but the list is not complete. In one way or another, we have provided either money or the impetus and nurturing needed to get things started.

I overheard a comment made recently that, in effect, said, "The UCC does not know how to build churches." I disagree, mainly because that expression implies that church development is paternalistic, in that some national or regional authority is expected to somehow provide both the spirit and substance for local church development. Church development is at its best when it is a shared covenantal activity grounded upon and inspired along the way by the creative minds and spirits of local congregations and fellowships.

I see signs of encouragement for our Conference faith community. Leadership in our associations, for the most part, is dedicated, willing and able. Church development, in spite of some initial disruptions during the past year, is back on track in terms of key projections. However, some shortages in funding resources will determine how we will move on from here. And, there are also other options we now recognize for getting the mission accomplished.

There is hardly a day during the week when we do not hear from someone in the ministry who would like to move to our Conference area and share the work we are doing. The sounds and the heightened activity surrounding our new office

location in midtown Atlanta has inspired us to new efforts and renewed dedication to fulfill the objectives you have entrusted to us. I thank God for all and for each one of us.

Mitchell C. Johnson
Associate Conference Minister

“The Outward Signs of the Inner Force”: Church Development

The basic function of the Church Development and Evangelism Commission is to work with associations within the Southeast Conference to develop an approach and program for establishing, renewing and relocating churches. A very critical part of this basic function is to work in conjunction with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries (UCBHM) to establish a realistic long-range plan that remains compatible with the unique circumstances of our Southeast Conference region. Questions and concerns around professional personnel resources and available funds are continually raised, making staff coordination at the Conference level an essential ingredient towards our overall success.

Current projects include three churches initiated by the Conference with covenantal help from the Conference and UCBHM: (1) Chattanooga, TN; (2) Southeast DeKalb; and (3) Macon, GA. Three churches for renewal initiated by members with help from the Conference and UCBHM; (1) Center Congregational, Atlanta; (2) Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta; and (3) Gwinnett Community UCC, Lilburn. One church being started at Marietta by local members of a community with only nurturing and guidance support from the Conference at this time.

Other projects include a relocation of our Crossville United Christian Church within the city of Crossville, TN; a building expansion/remodeling project at the Pleasant Hill, TN UCC Church and a new interdenominational relationship for the Atlanta UCC Church.

Strong active consideration is being given to the affiliation of an established church (formerly AME) in Southwest Atlanta; a suspended new church start at Athens, GA; the restart of our church at Columbia, SC, closed since 1988; a follow through on the LaGrange, GA church that voted to relocate in 1991, but has not done so up to the present time. We are also working closely with members at the Marion, AL church concerning their expressed interests to renew. The Athens, AL church is searching for a minister following the death of their beloved pastor. The Talladega church, for a while poorly, has called a UCC minister and is moving with new energy and spirit. Rush Memorial Church, with a long and proud tradition of ministry within the Atlanta University complex, is receiving our Conference help in obtaining UCBHM funding for its plans to renovate its historic church building.

Rev. Robert Sherard
Rev. Edward Schneider

Communication is the Key: Social Justice

The SEC Commission on Christian Social Justice began with a new slate of members this year. At the November planning retreat, we determined that the greatest need was the building of an infrastructure, some mechanisms for people within the SEC who are concerned with social justice issues, to be in closer contact with each other. This is, of course, a means and not an end. It is our hope that we will be better able to address specific social justice issues next year because of spending this year building structures for communications. In keeping with this plan, the following goals and projects were adopted (current status of projects is listed in brackets).

Goals

To increase awareness within the SEC of UCC-related social justice positions and actions.

To reduce the sense of isolation felt by individuals and groups within the SEC who are interested in social justice issues.

Projects

1. Education of Commission members about resources available within the UCC. [Ongoing process]
2. Identification of constituency (those individuals and groups who are concerned with matters of social justice) and establishment of mechanisms for networking. [This will be done with technical assistance from the Office for Church in Society. A staff person at OCIS is committed to assisting us in this project but asks that we wait until she has completed the task of reworking the national social justice network]
3. Establishment of resource bank for social justice issues. [Begun on an informal basis but will be a product of the networking goal above]
4. Dissemination of information to encourage groups and individuals to submit pertinent resolutions to SEC. [Information sent out by Conference office this year]
5. Solicitation of applications for Neighbors in Need funds available to SEC. [Five thousand dollars awarded to Nashville's Brookmeade UCC for its involvement in Tying Nashville Together, a new church-based community organizing effort]
6. Involvement in Violence Against Women workshop as appropriate. [Workshop completed. This Commission and the Women's Commission have offered assistance to the Church and Ministry Commission in following up on this workshop]
7. Development and dissemination of criteria for allocation of funds designated for peace and hunger projects. [In process, with target of annual SEC meeting for completion and dissemination]

Rev. Dorothy H. Gager, Chair.

Strengthening Faith Through Education:

Christian Education

Christian Education. How vital a concern for all: Christian Education! The Christian Education Commission has planned for and desires to strengthen Christian Education in our churches. Even though requests for help come to the Conference from our churches, knowing how to be effective is sometimes frustrating.

We eagerly support the developing Youth Council which grew out of our SEC delegation of 23 who attended the National Youth Event at Beloit College in July '92. A reunion gathering was held Jan. 29-21 of this year in Atlanta with plans being made for the Annual Meeting in June and "Youth on the Move" at Langdale in August. How important to look forward to the next generation and the development of their leadership for church and society!

"Christian Education: Invitational" was held on March 6 to develop plans for the future of Christian Education in the SEC. The following is a summary of that meeting:

- I. Through faith, Christian Education helps people to cope with life, gaining a sense of peace; to have hope so that life is more than present pressures; and to find purpose in life as they learn more of life's mysteries.
- II. Educating our people to the need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, devotions and sharing with others.
- III. Exploration of the "great truths" of the Bible, and of God's salvation in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- IV. Realization that it is the responsibility of all of us; each of us is a disciple and that we are vehicles, instruments of education.
- V. We must develop VITAL education programming through all of our Conference churches by training local church clergy and leaders through workshops, clusters, Bible study and prayer. In accordance with this, we must inform them about all resources available.
- VI. Finally, we must facilitate local church educators through a system of networking.

Planned Events:

Reunion meeting, Jan. '93; Mini-Camp, April '93; SEC Annual Meeting, June 11-13, '93; Iowa Event/training, Aug. 1-8, '93; Langdale, Aug. 13-15, '93; Half-way: Iowa-SEC meeting.

Our theme for SEC in Christian Education is "Becoming Biblical People in the '90s."

Stewards of the Mysteries of God In Christ: Church & Ministry

The ministry of the Church gives emphasis to being stewards of the mysteries of God in Christ. The clergy is a collegial body that covets the opportunities of planning, sharing and witnessing as we share mutual concerns. This closer working relationship includes better relationships with students in care, licensed and ordained ministers. The services of the Career Center are a valuable resource to us. We also recognize the importance of scholarships and the value of interim ministries in our midst. We are concerned when the clergy do not participate in the fellowship and opportunities for challenge, reflection, mutual inspiration in retreats and clergy gatherings. This is critical for our own professional and church life.

Agenda this year has included:

1. Procedures for Church and Ministry association committees for authorizations of clergy status, honoring of pastoral service, certificates for occasions of celebration, and good record keeping.
2. Good records on the status of the status of clergy, so that yearbook reports are accurate, and that procedures of review, etc. are performed regularly.
3. We applaud the workshop, "Men Against Violence Against Women" and the implication it has for the various treatments and the role of women and children, especially in church and society.
4. We planned, and then cancelled, both the Pre-Retirement Workshop and the Clergy Retreat in April. We will do more careful planning on these for the future.
5. We will establish, with staff, a periodic new clergy orientation program to the Conference.
6. A training and education program for Licensed Ministry is being developed under Roy Bain's direction. We have developed and are arranging an Ensminger Intern program with Fisk University, using the funds of the Ensminger Trust that were designated for such educational purposes. This program will secure a graduate student to develop youth and young adult leadership throughout the Southeast, and empower the next generation to work as adjunct staff in the Conference.
7. An Ethics Committee is to be established in the SEC to deal with indiscretions amongst clergy and church leadership. It is a sensitive and critical area.
8. The training and honoring of lay leaders is the focus of the new SEC resource notebook, "Local Church Leaders Guidebook." We intend to present a copy to each church at the Annual Meeting.
9. We have just been offered the opportunity to present a Clergy Day on Friday at the beginning of Annual Meeting in June. We look forward to enabling our clergy to become more knowledgeable as the leadership team of the Conference.

I want to express appreciation to the many leaders of our churches and their faithfulness to the Gospel. I especially thank Sam Kaetzel and the other chairpersons who give of themselves on this important task of the associations and of the Conference.

Lastly, I would lift up the many resources available to help clergy and churches in the ministry of our churches. Ervin Milton of the Office of Church Life and Leadership has assisted us so ably as a living resource in our midst. Please feel free to contact us so that the support and empowerment of leadership may be more effective.

Robert Johnson

Women's Concerns & Issues in the Light of the Gospel: Commission on Women in Church & Society

UCC women in our Southeast Conference are women in mission—women engaged in reaching out to others sharing Christ's love in concrete ways in their churches, communities and beyond. They also are women concerned with justice for all. The Commission on Women in Church and Society seeks to provide resources and programs for churches and leaders dealing with women's concerns and issues in the light of the Gospel.

This has been a very full year for the Commission including:

1. Two Commission meetings in November and March, with great commitment and energy on the part of all.
2. Participation in the Coordinating Center for Women's Biennial Assembly in Cleveland, with Yubenia Prigmore and Rev. Maureen Jenci-Shelton representing our Conference.
3. An inspiring and stimulating Southeast Women's Retreat at Monteagle, TN in October with some 75 women in attendance and the Rev. Flora Wilson-Bridges as our challenging keynote speaker.
4. The selection of three outstanding laywomen to be honored at General Synod in St. Louis in July. They are Trudy Braun (Crossville, TN), Erna Bryant (Atlanta), and Lois Harry (Lanett, AL).
5. Many of our churches celebrated UCC Women's Week, February 7-14.
6. Co-sponsorship (with Church and Ministry and Social Justice) of the Conference clergy event in February on "Men Stopping Violence Against Women."
7. East Alabama Women's Fellowship held their Spring Rally in March at Lanett and a retreat at Children's Harbor in August.
8. The Atlanta Cluster sponsored "Sister to Sister: A Dialogue on Race" in April with Dr. Jacquelyn Grant and Kathleen Carlin helping women from various parts of the Conference examine blocks to solidarity.
9. The Women's Mite, chaired by Kathryn Robinson, continued to receive gifts (five cents a day per women -- \$18.15 a year is suggested) and distributed scholarship aid for women to attend leadership events.
10. Many justice issues were addressed in the various conferences and publications and special emphasis was placed on the Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women and on the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Future plans include:

1. The Southern Regional UCC Women's Retreat at Biloxi, MS, October 8-10, 1993. An inspiring, challenging and fun filled time is planned. Louise Cox is our planning representative.
2. Plans are also underway for the next Southeast Women's Retreat to be held at Shocco Springs, Talladega, Alabama, October 7-9, 1994.
3. An inventory of program and issue resources available at the Conference office and/or from national UCC is in process.
4. All women's groups in our churches are urged to become partners in UCC Women in Mission and regularly receive *Common Lot* and a variety of other resources.
5. Further work is in process on increasing the number of women in leadership positions in our associations and Conference.
6. We continue to support our clergymen and their many gifts.

Please contact any of the Commission members with questions or suggestions.

Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown, Chair
 Shirley Bowen, Virada Brand, Louise Cox, Lena Dollar, Juanita Hixon,
 Marion Langdon, Vanessa Robbs, Kathryn Robinson, Irene Simpson

Slate of Nominations, 1993

POSITIONS	CONTINUING	TERM	NOMINATIONS	TERM
<i>BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS</i>				
Moderator	Erna Bryant	'94		
Vice Moderator	Richard Sales	'94		
Secretary			Dr. Miller Jordan	'95
Treasurer			Lester Ariail	'95
Past Moderator	Roy Bain	'94		
<i>BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERS</i>				
Members-at-Large	Al Dempsey	'94	Melinda Davis	'95
	Betty Moon	'94	Elizabeth Clement	'95
AL/TN	Andrew Frierson	'94	Holly Nelson	'95
East AL	Don Harmon	'94	Bill Tweed	'95
GA/SC	Stephen Sterner	'94	Florence Miller	'95
S/AL-NW/FL	Woody Clark	'94	Jim Courtney	'95
<i>COMMISSIONS</i>				
Church & Ministry	Roger Jones	'94	Donald Nelson	'95
	Robert Johnson, Chair	'94		'95
Christian Educ.	Maureen Jenci-Shelton	'94		'95
Stewardship/			Ernie Simon	'95
OCWM	Winston Clark, Chair	'94	Jacqueline Grimes	'95

Ch. Dev./ Evangelism	Ed Schneider, Chair	'94	Patti Tally	'95
Women	J. Myers-Brown, Chair	'94	Virada Brand	'95
	Shirley Bowen	'94		
Social Justice	Dorothy Gager, Chair	'94	Gary Woodruff	'95
	Leon Dickinson	'94		

COMMITTEES

Heritage		Idella Childs	'95
		Stacey Moore	'95
Nominating	James Myers	'94	
	Lenda Sherrell	'94	

GENERAL SYNOD

Delegate	Rebecca Paschal	'95
Alternate	Katrina Gardener	'95
Delegate	Andrew Frierson	'95
Alternate	Annie Neal	'95

The Nominees: Where They are From

Dr. Miller Jordan, member, First Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA
Lester Ariail, clergy, Macon, GA
Melinda Davis, member, First Congregational Christian Church, Montgomery, AL
Elizabeth Clement, clergy, Atlanta, GA
Holly Nelson, clergy, Nashville, TN
Bill Tweed, member, United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, GA
Florence Miller, member, Plymouth Congregational Church, Charleston, SC
Jim Courtney, member, Good Hope Congregational Christian Church, Baker, FL
Donald Nelson, clergy, Atlanta, GA
Ernie Simon, clergy, Pleasant Hill, TN
Jacqueline Grimes, member, First Congregational Christian Church, Montgomery, AL
Patti Tally, member, United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, GA
Virada Brand, member, First Congregational Christian Church, Andalusia, AL
Gary Woodruff, member, Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA
Idella Childs, member, First Congregational Church, Marion, AL
Stacey Moore, member, First Congregational Christian Church, Montgomery, AL

1994 Proposed Budget—Income & Expenses

The Board of Directors proposes for adoption the following 1994 budget for the Southeast Conference. Included for comparison are adopted 1993 budgets and the revised 1993 budget.

	1993 Adopted	1993 Revised	1994 Proposed
INCOME			
OCWM Support	197,668	173,000	185,000
Church Development	3,257	17,000	22,000
Investment Income	14,200	17,500	17,500
Reimbursement, etc.	2,300	2,300	4,500
Association Special Support	12,575	10,600	6,000
UCBHM/Staff Support	20,000	21,000	21,000
TOTAL INCOME	250,000	241,400	256,000
EXPENSE			
Mission Beyond the Conference			
OCWM National	20,700	20,700	22,000
General Synod	2,500	2,500	1,000
Council of Conference Ministers	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL	24,200	24,200	24,000
Mission Within the Conference			
Church Development	0	0	0
Resource Material	500	500	500
SE News/Packets	4,000	4,000	4,000
Annual Meeting	1,000	1,000	1,000
Staff Travel	12,092	12,092	12,092
Commissions			
Church & Ministry	500	500	500
Social Justice	500	500	500
Christian Ed/Youth	500	500	500
Outreach/Stewardship	500	500	500
Church Development	500	500	500
Women (include Nat'l Mtg.)	500	500	500
Program Fund	2,000	2,000	2,000
Church Projects	17,000	17,000	22,000
TOTAL	39,592	39,592	44,592
Conference Organization & Operation			
Board of Directors	3,500	3,500	3,500
Executive Committee	600	600	600
Personnel Committee	600	600	600
Finance Committee	600	600	600
Nominating Committee	250	250	250
Annual Meeting	600	600	600
TOTAL	6,150	6,150	6,150

Office Operation			
Rent	6,800	8,666	9,100
Telephone	6,400	6,400	6,400
Office Supplies	4,000	4,000	4,000
Postage	5,000	5,000	5,000
Equipment Lease	0	0	0
Equipment Maintenance	3,785	3,785	3,785
Auditors	2,000	2,000	2,000
Dues and Fees	180	180	180
Worker's Compensation	800	800	800
Liability Insurance	800	800	800
TOTAL	29,765	31,631	32,065
Personnel	146,293	136,727	146,193
Other	4,000	4,000	4,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	250,000	241,400	257,000

Clearer & Simpler Accounting: Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had a very busy and productive year. As always, the focus of the Committee's work is in being faithful stewards of the resources of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. We have exercised that faithful stewardship in some very specific ways in 1992. In order to accomplish this work, many members of the committee met almost monthly for study, hearing reports, and offering suggestions for our work.

The Committee spent much of the first part of the year working on the verification of fund balances and the clarification of uses of the various designated and restricted funds entrusted to the Southeast Conference. This work included lengthy historical research and documentation. It culminated in a recommendation approved by the Board of Directors to consolidate these funds into three accounts with the United Church Foundation. This recommendation was made on the basis of the Foundation's record of socially conscious investing and historically strong rates of return. The Conference now has a clearer accounting of various designated and restricted funds, as well as clearly identifiable income attributable to each of the funds. The three funds are the Southeast Conference Endowment Fund at \$145,793.62, the Annie B. Ensminger Fund at \$121,670.68, and the Southeast Conference Designated Fund at \$299,398.42.

The Committee has worked with Lester Ariail and Adrienne Laraway on a simplification of our treasurer's reports. We believe these reports should more closely mirror the format of the budget presented to the Annual Conference meeting. This clarification will help us understand how our budget and expenses reflect the goals of the Southeast Conference.

The Committee continues to work with an auditor in completing a certified audit of our Conference Financial Statements. We hope to have those audits completed and up to date by the end of 1993. The Committee is especially grateful for the work of Lester Ariail, David Speno and Adrienne Laraway in facilitating the work of the Finance Committee. Special thanks also to Roger Knight for his continuing support and guidance.

Stephen Sterner, Chair

William Green, Donald Harmon, Alexis Reeves, Lenda Sherrell, David Speno

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1992

ASSETS

Current Assets

UCF – Ensminger	121,498.38
UCF – Designated	302,078.36
Merrill Lynch – Designated	72,016.36
Merrill Lynch – Ensminger	172.30
Petty Cash	43.56
Bank Account #1 (General)	18,783.75
Accounts Receivable	8,088.93
Prepaid Insurance	6,401.22
Temporary Transfer	93.50
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	674,969.98

Fixed Assets

Office Equipment	17,091.39
Accumulated Depreciation – Office Equipment	(11,816.31)
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5,275.08
Other Assets	.00
TOTAL ASSETS	.00
TOTAL ASSETS	680,245.06

LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	3,898.40
Deferred Revenue	9,773.03
Operative Reserve	11,950.29
Federal Income Tax Withheld	46.64
FICA Tax Withheld	133.67
State Income Tax Withheld	515.95
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	26,317.98

Long Term Liabilities

Ensminger Fund	121,670.68
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One Great Hour of Sharing	733.50
Veterans of the Cross	270.00
GA-SC Association	769.99
Hunger Action Fund	2,359.00
Strengthen the Church Offering	475.12
Elon Home for Children	4,250.43
Morgan-Scott Project	137.00
Uplands, Inc.	1,967.50
Habitat for Humanity	3,014.00
Emmaus Home	98.00
Women's Mite	2,365.81
Columbia Building Fund	1,600.00
Columbia Aided Fields, SEC	5,952.41
National Youth Event	60.33
SEC Women's Meeting	1,646.66
Other Designated Funds	14,181.93
Church Development – Columbus	76,944.97
Church Development – Special Projects	4,300.10
Church Development – Macon	96,078.36
Special Campaign	111,331.49
SEC Endowment Fund	153,874.15
Special New Church Development	5,313.94
Special Gifts	2,750.00
TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES	612,145.37
 TOTAL LIABILITIES	 638,463.35
 EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	41,781.71
Current Year Profit (Loss)	.00
TOTAL EQUITY	41,781.71
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	 680.245.06

Educating for Planned Giving

One of the best kept secrets in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is PLANNED GIVING.

Our committee is working to get the words out about what Planned Giving is, but our first emphasis is on what it is NOT. It is NOT a fund raising project. It is NOT a high-pressure sales pitch designed to get you involved in a program that you don't want or need. In fact, we tell you that Planned Giving isn't for everyone. But there are some aspects of the program that apply to everyone. Planned Giving

is an educational program. It is designed to inform all members of programs available to them. It also assists churches in setting up endowments, trusts, etc.

One of the first things we emphasize is the WILLS program. This program shows the need for everyone to have an up-to-date will. Then we show some of the investment programs available through the UCC such as Pooled Income Funds, Gift Annuities, and Deferred Annuity Plans.

You owe it to yourself to ask your church to contact the Planned Giving Committee to set up a presentation. As a part of the Conference, there is no charge for the program. Materials from the UCC will be available for purchase (at cost) at each presentation, or you may prefer to order the materials at a later date.

The committee chair, Dr. James Mason, a layman and member of the United Church of Huntsville, has made several presentations at no charge to the churches as a part of his ministry to the wider church.

There is also a short seminar, "Your Wealth Building Years—Financial Planning for 18 to 38 Year Olds," available without charge to persons interested in financial security. The book used in the presentation is available at a cost of \$12. however, purchase is not necessary to attend a seminar.

Last year was a beginning, but we have over fifty churches that have not requested to have a presentation on PLANNED GIVING. If you are a pastor or lay persons interested in our program, why not take a moment to set a time for a meeting and then write to Dr. James Mason, 901 Weatherly Rd. S.E., Huntsville, AL 35803-1142 or call 205-881-4391.

Resolution for Shalom in Cuba

Sponsor(s): Peace Committee of the Pleasant Hill Community Church

Person to Contact: Mr. Walter W. Stark

Address: P.O. Box 154, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

Telephone: 615-277-5239

1. Title or subject area of resolution: Resolution on Shalom in Cuba.
2. State a brief rationale (Biblical, Theological, Ethical) relating to the Resolution: See resolution.
3. What results are expected?: See resolution.
4. Is this Resolution related to any action of any other agency or instrumentality of the United Church of Christ?: See resolution.
5. Give a cost estimate of implementing the action of this Resolution: Postage costs for letters.

Resolution on Shalom in Cuba

WHEREAS, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1991 called for the restoring of normal relations between the United States and Cuba;

WHEREAS, in October 1992, the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed, the Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Bill) which tightens

the 34-year U.S. blockade of Cuba by prohibiting third nations and entities from trading with Cuba and imposing severe economic penalties for violation;

WHEREAS, through the prohibition of food, medicine, and other resources, this cruel, immoral and illegal blockade is having a devastating effect on the people of Cuba, and especially on its children, elderly, and sick;

WHEREAS, Church World Service (of the National Council of Churches), with U.S. Department of Commerce permission, has sent four shipments of food and medicine to Cuba during 1992, and Pastors for Peace (of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization), without seeking Department of Commerce permission, has delivered one shipment of food and medicine to Cuba during 1992, and is presently delivering a second shipment July 16 to August 9, 1993;

WHEREAS, church leaders and members in Cuba have asked members of United Church of Christ delegations in September 1992 and January 1992 to enlist the help of the United Church of Christ in ending the blockade;

WHEREAS, the leaders of the Reformed Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and Baptist Churches and the Ecumenical Council of Cuba sent a letter to President-Elect Bill Clinton last December asking to meet with him to dialogue in Christian spirit about the life and mission of the churches in Cuba in their task of unity and reconciliation, on behalf of the promotion of better relations between the two countries;

THEREFORE, the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ at its Annual Meeting, June 11-13, 1993:

1. Commends both Church World Service and Pastors for Peace for delivering food and medicine to Cuba, and urges the churches and members of the United Church of Christ to support their efforts;

2. Calls upon President Paul Sherry and a representative group of UCC leaders to meet with the leaders of the Ecumenical Council of Cuba at the earliest possible time to discuss our common task of unity and reconciliation, and how to achieve better relations between our two countries;

3. Calls upon United Church of Christ members to urge President Clinton to respond favorably to the December letter and request from the Cuban church leaders;

4. Calls upon United Church of Christ members to act as the persistent petitioner in Luke 11:5-8 urging the President and members of Congress to respect the sovereignty of Cuba and the humanity of the Cuban people, to repeal the Cuba Democracy Act, end the blockade, and seek the welfare and shalom of the Cuban people, and not their starvation, sickness, and death.

5. Calls upon the United Church Board for World Ministries, Office for Church in Society, Commission for Racial Justice, and the United Church of Christ Fellowship of Reconciliation to give special attention and leadership to these concerns.

A Resolution Reaffirming Rights of Local Churches

Sponsor(s): East Alabama-West Georgia Association

Person to Contact: Mr. Bill Tweed

Address: 244 Poplar Circle, LaGrange, GA 30240

Telephone: 706-882-8148

1. Title or subject area of Resolution: Autonomy and rights of local congregations.

2. State a brief rationale (Biblical, Theological, Ethical) relating to the Resolution: *We, the local churches of the East Alabama-West Georgia Association, Southeast Conference, respectfully request that General Synod 19 adopt this resolution reaffirming the rights of the local church as set forth in the United Church of Christ Constitution. As no individual or local church should have its rights and privileges restricted by direct action or inference, we further implore the General Synod and National Officers of United Church of Christ to make known the pronouncement and resolutions voted by General Synod speak only for the General Synod and not for the local churches.*

Resolution Reaffirming Rights of Local Churches

WHEREAS, the local church is the basic unit of the life and organization of the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, the autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in the UCC Constitution or By-Laws shall limit the right of the local church to operate in its customary way, nor may this right of autonomy be abridged or impaired by General Synod, Conference or Association;

WHEREAS, the right of autonomy allows the local church to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it may determine;

WHEREAS, the local church recognizes a member to be ordained in cooperation with the Association in accordance with locally established criteria and *UCC Manual on Ministry*.

WHEREAS, the General Synods, through a series of resolutions in the past, have sought to implement its desires on the local church without regard to the historical, moral and spiritual values of the local church:

A) THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Nineteenth General Synod reaffirms that the local church and the individuals therein are the heart of the UCC.

B) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Nineteenth General Synod affirms the autonomy of local churches and affirms that local churches may firmly state their right to call or dismiss a pastor according to their own procedure without dictation by others.

C) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Nineteenth General Synod reaffirms that the local church is responsible for recognition of its members whom God has called to the ministry for ordination or licensure through its Association and local churches may take exception to criteria contrary to locally established procedures.

D) BE IT RESOLVED: We reaffirm that the local church is responsible for recognition of its member whom God has called to the ministry for ordination or

licensure through its Association and takes exception to criteria contrary to locally established procedures.

Planning for, and Defining Needs: Stewardship & OCWM

The Stewardship and OCWM Commission has worked faithfully again this year to further develop and carry out all of its basic functions. In relations with the church congregations and the associations these have included, but have not been limited to, a comprehensive range of information, communication, training events and activities.

During October 1992, member conferences of the Graham Cluster had representatives attend a two-day training event at Blowing Rock, North Carolina led by David Beebe from the National Stewardship Council. Attending for the Southeast Conference were Tim Morrison from Marietta, GA; Richard Sales from Birmingham, AL; and Eugene Keen, serving as chair, from Huntsville, AL. (Rev. Keen later gave up the position of Commission chair upon the advice of his doctor.)

Winston Clark, a retired UCC minister living in Newnan, GA accepted the chair position of the Commission shortly after Rev. Keen's resignation. His report is highlighted by the results of another retreat sponsored by the National Stewardship held March 29-31 1993. This time, representatives of the Graham Cluster conferences were present from all of the member conferences including Southern, Puerto Rico, Florida and Southeast. By name, participants included Tim Morrison, Richard Sales, James Farnet, Raymond Hargrove, Hector Heredia, Mitchell Johnson, Winston Clark, Lucy Mahaffey, James Mason, John Sellars, Stephanie Weiner and Margaret Byrd. Leaders present from the national office included David Beebe, Doug Borko, Ronald Kurtz and David Langerhans.

The results from this retreat were very significant in terms of the initial development of specific "back home" plans and conferences represented. The representatives from the Southeast Conference discussed and drafted a very promising idea and plan for the establishment of a Resource Distribution Center full time at Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN. Rationale behind such a plan and proposal is to provide a more pro-active and aggressive activity to serve the comprehensive needs of local church congregations and associations throughout the widely dispersed Southeast Conference community. Thoughts were shared in this connection about the rich resources of stewardship program experience among the returned and retired missionaries of the UCC living at Pleasant Hill, the involvement of youth and children in all of our churches and sharper definition of needs in the exceptional situations of bi-vocational ministers and smaller churches.

The commission is now open to receiving information and suggestions from anyone in our churches and associations throughout the Conference.

Winston Clark, Chair
Mitchell Johnson, Eugene Keen

Conference Churches Give Well: Church Finances

The 1992 data base report, based on Yearbook information, shows church finances affected little by the recession. Increases in recent years have been vigorous ... partly driven by major capital spending and better reporting (51 of the churches reported). Last year's rise was better than the 5% rise reported in 1991.

The average church in the Conference had finances of \$57,020, an amount which is not sufficient to operate a church with full-time ordained ministry.

In 1992, per capita finances for all churches in the Conference were \$507.72. By contrast, per capita finances in the United Church of Christ in 1990 were \$330. This amount varied greatly among associations. Georgia-South Carolina churches had the highest per capita; South Alabama-Northwest Florida had the lowest. Also, urban churches and churches with 250-499 members had the highest per capita finances.

Church finances for African-American churches grew at a rate less than of the Conference as a whole. However, African American churches continue to have the highest per capita. Among associations, Georgia-South Carolina churches still maintained the largest total. That is a change since 1990 when Alabama-Tennessee churches had the largest total.

By locals, urban churches made up 53% of finances. By size, churches with 100-249 members had the lion's share (38%) of finances. The greatest increases in church finances were among churches in South Alabama-Northwest Florida; among suburban churches; and among churches with 50-99 members. Suffering declines were churches in East Alabama-West Georgia; in towns; and under 50 over 500 members.

Other data show the increase and strengthening of some churches, while others show decline. For instance, membership fell by 102 people to 7,749, with 16 churches reporting gains and 23 reporting losses; OCWM fell by \$5,322, with 26 churches giving more and 20 churches giving less. Church school enrollment fell by 168; with an average of 37 per church; worship attendance fell by 127, to a total average weekly attendance of 3,981, an average of 66 persons per church. On the other hand, church finances rose by \$214,622 to \$3.93 million, with a per capita of \$507.72; and stewardship rose by \$478,877 to \$3.62 million, with a per capita of \$466.67. Per capita in the UCC in 1990 was \$330.

The average church had 106 members in 1992, compared to 108 in 1991. Suburban churches were the largest, followed by town and urban. Rural churches were smaller. Also smaller were churches in the East Alabama-West Georgia and South Alabama-Northwest Florida associations, where most rural churches are located.

In 1992, only urban churches gained members. In 1991, the greatest growth was in urban and suburban churches. Also reporting growth were churches with 100 to 249 members. Churches in the South Alabama-Northwest Florida

Association had the least reported drop in membership. Churches with less than 50 members had a greater percentage drop than other churches in the Conference.

The data shows trends in our churches and our life together, so that planning for strengthening churches can be enhanced. Churches are urged to complete the Yearbook Reports each January, with careful record keeping, for a clearer picture of each congregation's life, and our total Conference life.

"The data show the contextual influences on church growth and decline. It also indicated the strong sense of mission and desire to share the Gospel in many churches," said Roger Knight.

The complete report is shared with the Board of Directors. A copy may be secured from the Conference Office.

Review Process Nets Positive Results: Personnel

The Personnel Committee oversees and makes recommendations concerning personnel and personnel-related issues for the Southeast Conference (SEC). Because of the large geographical area of the SEC and the small size of our staff, great demands are placed upon our personnel. Our staff has performed well and achieved a lot for a small operation. We thank the staff for their leadership and service to us.

During this year the committee was engaged in the following activities:

1. We established a salary schedule and review process for staffing. Taking into account a survey of all conference ministers, we set a salary range for the Conference Minister's position, along with a review procedure, by which increases may be granted. We set a policy for Cost of Living increases along with an incentive-merit increase dependent on performance evaluation (and then according to finances of the Conference). This establishes a solid base for functioning well into the future. Thanks to Truman Moore and Ms. Mae Kendall for their extraordinary work.

2. We were involved in office changes, seeking to support all. During all the changes, and the office move itself, the Conference was served well by all of the staff.

3. We received Board of Directors' approval to do an assessment of the office and staff functions. The services of Dr. Charles Burns of Florida were secured and he interviewed personnel and studied the documents of the SEC, making very helpful recommendations for the better functioning of the SEC. Those recommendations are in the areas of organization, communication, finance, office, staff and meetings; and will be presented to the Board of Directors. We anticipate further implications for change to be shared with the SEC.

4. We received the Conference Minister's request for a sabbatical, to commence this year sometime shortly after the Annual Meeting. A sabbatical is available to the Conference Minister after five years according to SEC personnel policies and was expressly included in the Letter of Call of the Conference Minister (1988). Arrangements for coverage during Roger's absence have not been finalized.

We are considering utilizing someone in the SEC (ex. retired clergy) or a staff person "on loan" from another conference.

Finally, we would like to thank all the persons who responded and returned our questionnaire concerning the evaluation of the Conference Minister.

Alford J. Dempsey, Jr., Chair

A Job Well Done ... More To Do: Location Committee

Your Location Committee has been very busy the past year. I want to thank each member of the Committee for his or her time and efforts in making my job a little easier. Members are Richard Harper, Darlene Johnson, Charlotte Morgan, Serge Nephrash, David Noble, Arthur Smith, Sr. Our work was made easier with the capable leadership of our Conference Minister, Roger Knight.

I would like to thank the wonderful people of Central Congregational Church for providing a home for the Conference Office for many years. We would have had a hard time existing at times if it had not been for their generosity. Thanks, Central!

I want to thank Serge Nephrash for putting together a sign for our new location. If you have seen the sign and our new facility, I am sure you take a lot of pride in it. Serge, on behalf of the Committee, thanks for your loyal work.

I want to thank Mike and Darlene Johnson for working so hard at putting together our reception at the dedication ceremonies. Thanks to all the churches who helped. The program was put together by our able Moderator, Erna Bryant.

It would be impossible to name all of you who have longed for the day when we would have a new location for the Conference Office. Please permit me to name one person who stands out in my mind as one who dreamed of this day. Freda Brown was our Conference Moderator before I assumed that role. She worked hard for this day and I feel that somewhere in heaven that she is looking down and saying, "Well done, people of the Southeast Conference. I love you and am proud of you." Freda did so much for the Conference and was a friend to all. I still miss her smiling face and loving example.

I would hope that all of you agree with me that our new location is temporary. I pray that we do not stay in this location as long as we were at Central. Let us work together for that day when we can have our own Conference home. We need a place where we can have training of the laity. We need a Conference building so that we can have retreats for the ministers and youth of our Conference. There is so much we could use such a facility for. This is a dream and each of us must work at making this a reality.

We are not a poor Conference. We are the people of God who are rich in talents and resources. We can do anything we want to do if we pull together. With your help and the help of God, we will do the job assigned to us.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your help and in allowing me to be a small part of the best Conference in the UCC. May God richly bless the Conference and its people.

L. Floyd Carmack

Time Table for Events: Program

As Vice Moderator, it is my privilege to chair the meeting of the various commission chairpersons of the Conference, both to assist them in working out a time table for events that will eliminate conflicting dates and/or combine events to save travel costs, and to assist them by recommending judicious expenditures of program funds in the Southeast Conference.

We experienced some problems this year as two commission chairpersons had to relinquish their positions. For all that, however, and possibly aided in part by the slow start, we have found that in each commission, careful thought is being given to how the best way to fulfill the mandated work.

As you read the reports, know that each commission is carefully trying to exercise both good stewardship of resources and new and creative methods of reaching their goals.

In line with the early '92 action of the Board of Directors, an Aid Planning Event was held for all commissions and program bodies on Nov. 13-14, 1992 to project program plans for '93 and beyond. We look to this year's planning event on Nov. 12-13 and ask all program persons to hold this date and plan to travel together (place will be announced).

Also on November 13-14, 1992, representatives of our local churches gathered to be trained by the Stewardship Council for the MISSION ALIVE program. One or two persons from each church are designated recipients of denominational mailings and, because of the training, know to whom they should be distributed in the congregation. Let me know your "contact person."

As a Conference, much of the territory we are covering is new and we seek to respond to the churches and associations on the one hand, and to the developed programs and resources of the national instrumentalities on the other. I rejoice that communication in both directions is increasing.

Richard Sales, Vice Moderator

DID YOU KNOW?

The State Line Congregational Christian Church was organized in 1852, when five acres of land was given by the late Jack Lancaster on which to erect a house of worship. Rev. Leon Fowler is current pastor of State Line Church.

**General Synod: UCC & Disciples of Christ Assembly
in St. Louis, July 15-21, Under the Theme ...
*Partners for the Glory of God***

Persons interested in attending may still register with the national UCC; forms are available at the Conference Office. On Sunday evening the large worship service will have Bishop Desmond Tutu preaching and the service will be televised at 8 p.m. ... Gather folk in your congregation and view it together while worshipping with the delegates and visitors to General Synod and Assembly. SEC delegates are Wayde Washburn, LaGrange; Nancy Sales, Birmingham; Andrew Frierson, Chattanooga; and Rebecca Paschal, Atlanta. Associate delegates are the Moderator and Conference Minister. SEC delegates and visitors will gather daily, some with our Iowa Partners, some with Southern Region conferences, and also with Disciple counterparts. Plan for our General Synod attendees to present programs at association meetings and local churches.

Heritage Room Begins ... Heritage Committee Annual Report

Hallelujah! The Conference Office "in the upper rooms on Peachtree" has a Resource-Heritage Room replete with a growing number of memorabilia, recalling persons and occasions important in the life of our church in this region. The Committee can take no credit in this development, but we applaud Roger Knight's efforts in this regard and encourage our churches to remember this beginning by contributing appropriate objects that hold in memory, persons and significant occasions in the life of each congregation. Combined, they become shared memories of the saints who preceded us on the way and call us into the future with courage and faith.

During the past year, Anita Delaries, a professional archivist, served the Committee as a consultant. Under her direction, Frances Smith, Robert Myers, and others placed the Conference Office files in acid-free containers and labeled them. The next step will be to sort the contents, removing metal staples and paper clips, and place the documents in acid-free file folders. Hopefully, a long-range plan for records management of Conference documents will be instituted in 1994 and shared with the committees. Hence, anticipate this new program and work now to gather your records in as complete a fashion as possible. Committee minutes are important for they record our work together in this region. We have a story to tell, and these are essential to this story.

Channing Jeschke and Frances Smith, Co-Chairs
Members: Ed Brown, Kathryn Childers, Idella Childs, Roger Knight
and Henry Weaver

OCWM GIVING 1992 ACCORDING TO CHURCH SIZE

Church Size	No. of Churches	%	Membership	%
200+	8	10%	3293	42%

100-199	16	21%	2266	29%
50-99	18	24%	1312	16%
1-49	31	42%	878	11%
Church Size				OCWM
200+	Cullman St. John's	1056	8,100	
(8)	Atlanta Central	593	34,000	
	Atlanta First	455	11,000	
	Chattanooga Pilgrim	278	15,485	
	Lanett CC	245	1,093	
	LaGrange United	230	1,474	
	Fairfield Glade Community	227	3,000	
	Jonesboro Trinity	209	6,600	
		3293	80,752	
100-199	Nashville Brookmeade	188	200	
(16)	Langdale CC	176	164	
	Huntsville United	172	9,000	
	Woodbury Jones Chapel	165	2,280	
	Nashville First	162	6,000	
	Pleasant Hill Community	158	18,000	
	Marietta Pilgrimage	152	2,750	
	Birmingham First	150	4,960	
	Charleston Circular	146	5,000	
	Belvidere First	125	6,589	
	Pine Mt. Oak Grove	115	1,188	
	Valley Todd	115	0	
	Savannah First	112	1,100	
	Birmingham Pilgrim	111	5,400	
	LaGrange Hillside	111	0	
	Midway Congregational	108	800	
		2266	63,431	
50-99	Charleston Plymouth	98	1,200	
(18)	Lilburn Gwinnett Community	95	1,200	
	Knoxville COS	92	2,250	
	Montgomery First	94	1,900	
	Roanoke North Main	89	616	
	Crossville United Christian	81	3,000	
	Roanoke Forest Home	76	48	
	Atlanta UCC	71	0	
	LaFayette Pleasant Grove	71	1,309	
	Sweetwater First	69	0	
	Beachton Evergreen	67	495	
	Roanoke Bethany	63	0	
	East Tallassee CC	61	171	

	Hanceville Mountain Grove	61	150
	Andalusia Antioch	59	1,500
	Atlanta Rush	57	0
	Roanoke, Antioch	55	570
	Nashville Howard	53	600
		1312	15,009
1-49	Waverly United Community	49	160
	Phenix City Russell Woods	47	1,140
	Dewy Rose Liberty	42	0
	*Braselton Macedonia	41	0
	Thomasville Bethany	41	300
	Deer Lodge Congregational	41	1,200
	Clio New Hope	41	0
	Andalusia First	40	1,050
	Watson Chapel	39	0
	Roanoke New Hope	38	600
	Tougaloo Union	37	0
	Alexander City First	34	0
	Atlanta Carroll Heights	31	0
	Athens Trinity	31	200
	*Ambrose Christian	30	0
	Barnesville Fredonia	29	150
	Brantley Liberty	28	0
	Alpine King's Chapel	24	0
	Glenmary CC	24	400
	Robbins Barton Chapel	24	300
	Chattanooga First	23	0
	Talladega	22	0
	Garden City CC	21	462
	*Columbia Pilgrim	15	0
	Dadeville Elder	14	476
	Demorest Federated	16	456
	Columbus United	13	95
	Brantley Indian Creek	12	0
	Roanoke First	11	713
	Bonifay New Effort	10	0
	Marion First	10	0
		878	7702

* Non-functioning congregation.

This list includes UCC churches, not those listed as Schedule I or Schedule II churches.

Welcome to the Annual Meeting!

We extent a hardy welcome to the 27th Annual Meeting to be held at Talladega College Campus in historic Talladega, Alabama. We have been preparing for this event all year, hoping to make this one the best yet.

Our theme, "We've a Story to Tell ...," will be a sharing of the varied stories which help us remember and give thanks for how God has acted to bring us to this point and how God can work through us into the future.

The Rev. Norman Jackson, Hawaii Conference Minister and former Executive Director for the Council for American Indian Ministry, will be our keynote speaker.

Although it will be necessary to take care of some business, sessions will be kept lean and compact. We invite you to come and celebrate and witness to the transforming power of God.

A Festival of Talents is an evening of local church talents shared as our Annual Meeting Celebration. There will be stories, pictures, skits, music, etc. to express your own church.

In coming to share the story and identity of our faith in the Southeast, each church is asked to prepare their delegates by identifying the mission and key story of their church.

Who Can Attend the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is open to everyone. However, only certain people can vote in the plenary business sessions which decide on officers, budget and resolutions. Voting persons are delegates from churches; all ordained clergy, licensed and commissioned ministers; and members of the Board of Directors. Each church up to 100 members is entitled to a minimum of two delegates. One additional delegate is awarded for every 100 members over the first 100 members. Membership of churches is determined by Yearbook reports filed with the Conference Office.

Registration for Annual Meeting

You can register for the Annual Meeting in two ways:

1. Most delegates register for the full event. Cost is \$43.00, and includes all Annual Meeting materials as well as meals from Friday evening through Sunday breakfast.

2. Many visitors register for Saturday only. The cost is \$23.00 and includes lunch and dinner on Saturday.

For information on registration, call the Conference Office at (404) 607-1993. Check and registration should be mailed to Ms. Leslie Cox, 3755 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, GA 30066. Registrations should indicate whether person attending is an elected delegate (ordained or lay), or a visitor.

Hotel Space at the Colony House

Lodging is available at either the Colony House Motel or Shocco Springs Retreat Center, both conveniently located to the Talladega campus. Shocco Springs offers motel type rooms but without TV. You will need to call the Colony House Motel directly to reserve space there. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Southeast Conference. Colony House Motel's, (205) 362-0900, room rate is \$36.52 per night, double occupancy (includes tax). Reservations should be made by May 31, 1993.

Parking Available at Church

Parking is available in designated areas on campus ...

To reach Talladega College, from I-20, take Hwy. 77 south to Talladega, turn right on Court Street, then right again on Battle Street to the campus. Those leaving Atlanta can take Hwy. 21 south into downtown Talladega, stay on 21 until it leaves Battle Street west of Downtown. Stay on Battle to the campus. Those staying at Shocco Springs should stay on Hwy. 21 west out of downtown to the Retreat Center. Colony Motel is on Hwy. 77 north of Talladega ...

Youth on the Move

During the weekend of January 29-31, youth from across the Southeast Conference met in Atlanta for fellowship, faith exploring and planning for their future. They had such a great time, they are ready to gather together again.

If the Youth of our Conference "bond" together now, we can only imagine what the future holds for them. It is our duty as leaders of the Church to raise and train these youth to fulfill the scripture in Matthew 28:19 and 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo I will be with you always, even to the end of the age."

All youth of 7th-12th grades, from every church in our Conference is invited, plus one adult will be needed to attend for every 5 youth. The time is Friday night, August 13, through Sunday, August 15th at Langdale Congregational Christian United Church of Christ in Valley, Alabama. Planned activities include: Basketball/Softball/Volleyball Tournaments, Pool Party with Cook out on Saturday

night, Special Speaker, Devotions and Vespers, and fun and fellowship while exploring faith, hopes and dreams. Cost is \$15 per person, plus cost of supper Friday night and lunch upon departure on Sunday.

Leaders of this great weekend are Tony and Gina Smith. They are the youth directors at Langdale UCC. Rev. Herb Young, pastor, and Steve Davis, Senior High Sunday School teacher, will be in charge of worship. A follow-up letter with registration form, registration deadline, and a weekend schedule will be sent to all churches soon. Get your youth excited about this event!

Faith Works '94

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, begins with supper on Saturday, July 2, and ends Thursday, July 7 with breakfast. Faith Works is for all ages! Plan now to come and bring a group from your local church. Supervised youth groups are invited to attend.

A variety of room and board packages are available. Room and board in residence halls for youth and adults in double non-air conditioned space is \$165. Single and air-conditioned space are available at an additional cost. Room and board in residence halls for children in sleeping bags will begin at \$59 for children under 6 and \$110 for children between 6 and 13. Space will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. The Purdue University campus is accessible for persons with disabilities. Motel and camping facilities are located nearby. For more information, write to Faith Works '94, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Faith Works '94 is sponsored by the national agencies and the conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Day of Affirmation ... "America the Beautiful"

On July 22, 1892 Katharine Lee Bates ascended majestic Pikes Peak and penned the song which our country has long since known and sung, "America the Beautiful." Beginning July 22nd of this year, and for four days, America will be celebrating not only Miss Bates' incredible hymn, but the God-given beauty and strength of the land which her words so richly describe.

Sunday, July 25, 1993, has been designated as a DAY OF AFFIRMATION. On that day our "America The Beautiful" Centennial Celebration will glorify the religious freedom, indeed, the very foundation of Faith, on which our nation was founded.

Ministers and church leaders across the nation are requested to choose one of the blessings which are so beautifully recorded in "America the Beautiful" and include it as a portion of that day's text, sermon or homily. Our emphasis is on AMERICAN people, with no lines of demarcation which would single out any nationality, color, race, personal or religious preference, but that we are ALL AMERICAN PEOPLE—our future is full of hope and we are free!

“60 Minutes” is not the only program on Sunday night TV!

**By satellite from
General Assembly/Synod
Sunday, July 18, at 8 p.m. (CT)**

A Service of Praise & Celebration

***Featuring*
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
600-Voice Choir
African Dance Troupe & Drum Ensemble
With
10,000 Disciples and UCC worshippers**

**For materials and information on how your congregation can be linked to this
inspirational event, call (317) 353-1499, x205.**

***Produced by the Offices of Communication of the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) and the United Church of Christ***

CHURCH AND PEOPLE NOTES

Wm. Gerrard, Interim Pastor, Belvidere, has been called as organizing pastor of a new Christian Church, Orlando, FL.

First Congregational, Roanoke, AL – closed with final service on Easter. This wonderful congregation has had as its pastor the Rev. Joe French.

Macon, GA church, which was sold, was transferred to the Booker T. Washington Community Center in a public ceremony in March.

Hanceville, AL – Mt. Grove Church – dedicated its new Fellowship Hall on April 18th. J. T. Lowery, Pastor.

Belvidere, TN – In looking at its “new future,” has changed its name to First United Church, UCC. Wm. Gerrard, Interim Pastor.

Mrs. Florence Dollar, Roanoke, died April 22. She was a longtime leader in Roanoke First Church and East Alabama Association officer.

Mrs. Edna Menchhofer – broken hip ... The Rev. J. David Menchhofer – heart bypass ... The Rev. Charles Bell, Carrollton – heart by-pass ... The Rev. Larry Crook, LaFayette – broken back ... The Rev. Gerald O'Connor – back surgery ... Professor Walter Brueggemann – extended illness ... Wm. Jackson – Board of Directors – surgery ... The Rev. George Dominick – surgery ... The Rev. Andrew Frierson – treatments ... The Rev. Roy Bain – hospitalized for examination ... The Rev. James McAdams – hospitalization ... The Rev. Olin Sheppard – hospitalization.

The Rev. Houston Wheeler – entitled *Organizing in the Other Atlanta, a Case Study Handbook for Urban Life*. Houston is a minister of the United Church engaged in a vital ministry in the inner city. Book available—\$10.

A son was born to Chaplain and Mrs. Charles Melvin, Pensacola, FL.

Women of Faith ... a Profile

Virada Brand, First Congregational Church, Andalusia, Alabama. A Youth Leader, Sunday School Teacher of 3-5-year-olds, and choir member. Listed in "Who's Who in America's Teachers." Virada taught first grade for 21 years before retiring from Straughn School. The Lanett native also taught sixth grade for three and a half year. She attended Southern Union State Junior College and graduated from Troy State University. She also did additional work at TSU. She has a son, Randall, who is a teacher and a daughter, Carol, who is a journalist. She also has two grandchildren.

Virada Brand was a 4-H advisor and served on the Covington County Arts Commission, the Ruritan Club and the Antioch Rural Development Club. She was Straughn Elementary School Teacher of the Year in 1986-87. Not only does she currently volunteer to read in several elementary school classes on a regular basis, but she also does volunteer work as a counselor at Sav-A-Life and is the education chairman of PALS.

We salute Virada Brand, a woman who puts her faith to work in her daily life.

Jean Young, wife of former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, a member of First Congregational, Atlanta. Jean received the "Board of Governors Award" for founding the Dream Jamboree, a nationally recognized career fair for young people; for co-founding the Atlanta/Fulton County Commission on Children and Youth; and for her tireless volunteer efforts to many organizations over the past twenty years.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Published by the Southeast Conference

United Church of Christ

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This transcription was recorded on September 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

PROJECT

